#.06

AAAHH!!
パチ
パチ
DOES IT HURT?
WELL, IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT.

……!!
カメ!!
EVEN WHEN I ENTRUST YOU WITH A SIMPLE ERRAND, ALL YOU'RE CAPABLE OF IS FAILURE?
YOU JUST PROVE HOW CLUMSY AND USELESS YOU ARE …
UUUAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHH!
ALL OF THE FRAGMENTS OF THE NEHUSHTAN ARMOR THAT WERE CORRODING THE INSIDE OF YOUR BODY HAVE BEEN REMOVED.
WE'RE DONE WITH YOUR TREATMENT.
HAH
HAAH
HAAH
ハァ…

UUGH ....
IF I HAD LET CHRIS GO WITHOUT TREATMENT, WOULD SHE HAVE BEGUN FUSING WITH THE RELIC LIKE THAT OTHER GIRL?
WELL, IF I CAN'T OBTAIN *HER* AS A SPECIMEN TO USE FOR DISSECTION, THEN...
IDEALLY, USING THIS GIRL INSTEAD WOULD-

EVERYTHING WILL TURN OUT OKAY, WON'T IT?
IF I DO WHAT YOU TELL ME, AND DEFEAT ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HOLD POWER ...
EVENTUALLY THE WORLD WILL BE FREED FROM ALL CONFLICT, RIGHT?
HEH...

HAHA...
HA HA HA HA !!
WHAT ...
YOU'RE JUST TOO CUTE CHRIS!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT THAT?!

HONESTLY, IF YOU STICK WITH THAT METHOD AND CRUSH THE SEED OF ONE CONFLICT, TWO OR THREE ARE JUST GOING TO SPROUT IN PLACE OF IT.
!?
NO WAY ...

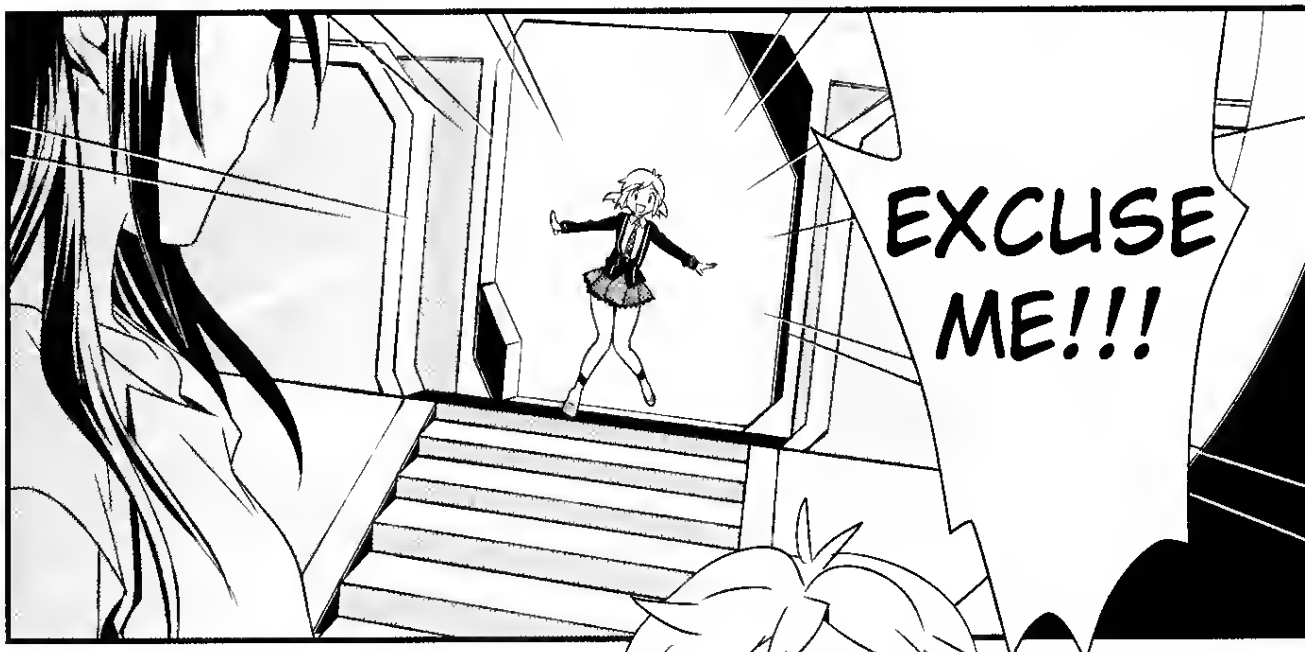
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME DOING THIS WOULD WORK..!!
I'M SO SORRY, CHRIS.
I WAS LYING.

YOU LIED ...

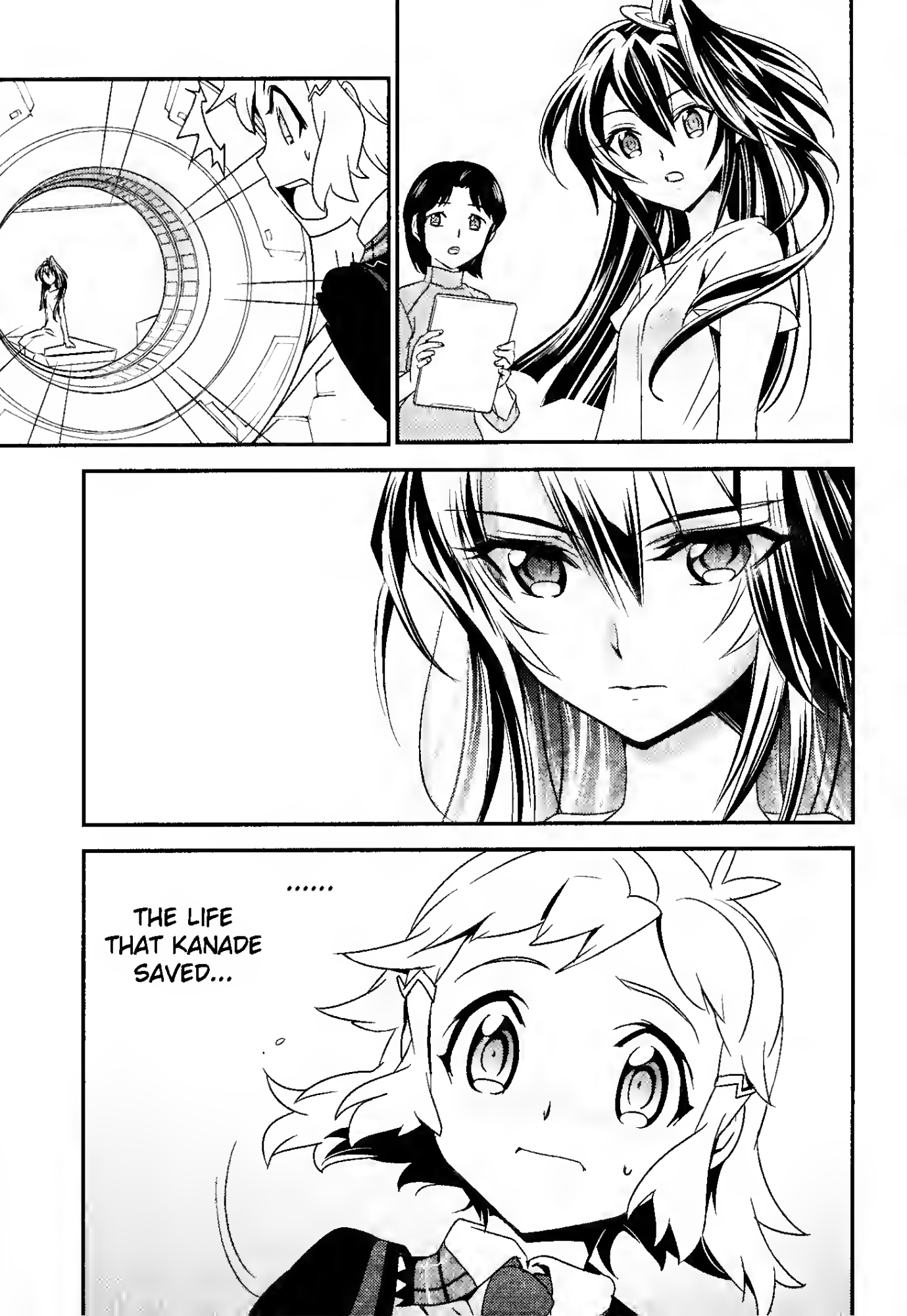
THAT ARMOR, IT CAN'T BE...
COME NOW, DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
ALL I WANT TO DO IS A LITTLE EXPERIMENT TO SEE IF I CAN ARTIFICALLY CREATE A FUSED BODY SIMILAR TO THAT GIRL'S.

Division 2: Medical Room
CONDITION: GREEN.
THE RECOVERY PROCESS IS COMPLETE, ALL THE DAMAGE IS GONE.

AND YET ...
I WAS ABLE TO RETURN DUE TO KANADE'S WORDS.
YOU WON'T FIND THE ANSWER HERE.


EXCUSE ME!!!

I HEARD THAT TSUBASA-SAN HAD MADE A RECOVERY, AND SO I-

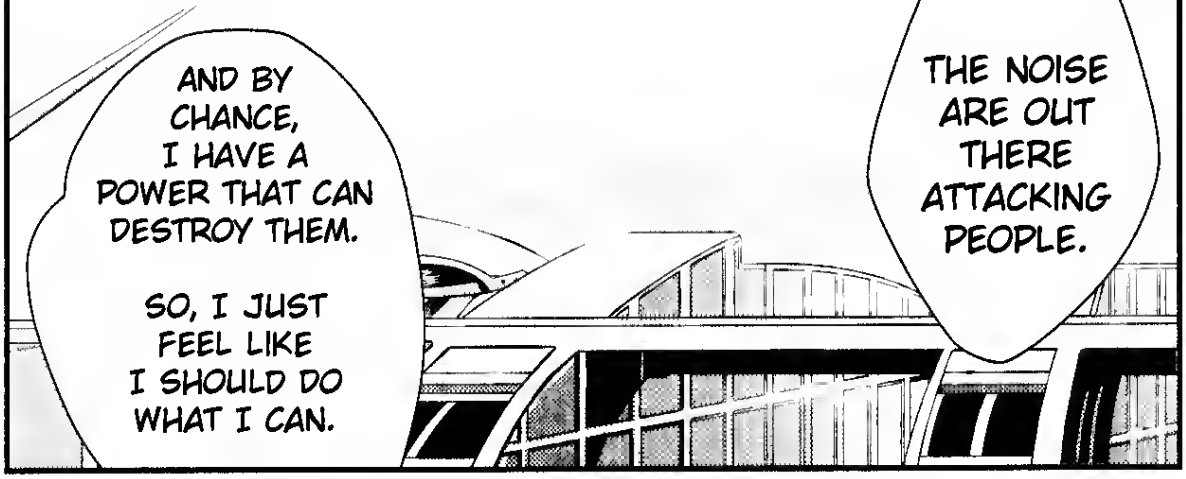

.....
THE LIFE THAT KANADE SAVED...

I'M SORRY.
I... UH...
UM ...

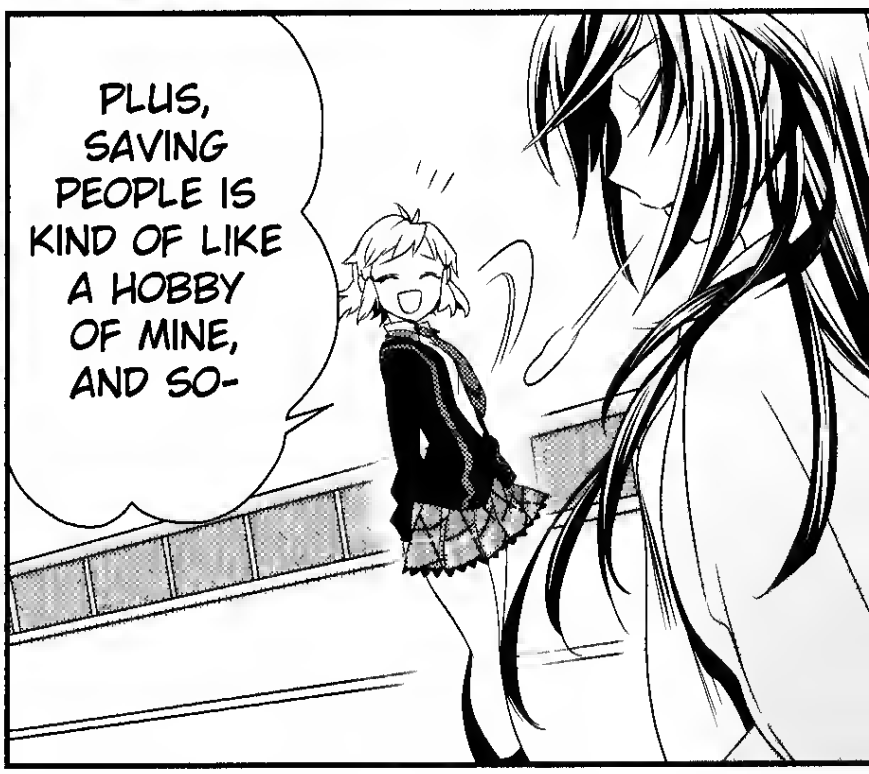
I'VE BEEN READING ALL THE REPORTS.
I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOUR HARD WORK.
TSUBASA -SAN....

BUT FIRST I NEED TO KNOW SOMETHING.
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHY YOU FIGHT.

WHY I FIGHT ...?
LET'S GO SOMEPLACE ELSE.
.....
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THE REASON WHY I KEEP FIGHTING MYSELF.


AND BY CHANCE, I HAVE A POWER THAT CAN DESTROY THEM.
SO, I JUST FEEL LIKE I SHOULD DO WHAT I CAN.
THE NOISE ARE OUT THERE ATTACKING PEOPLE.

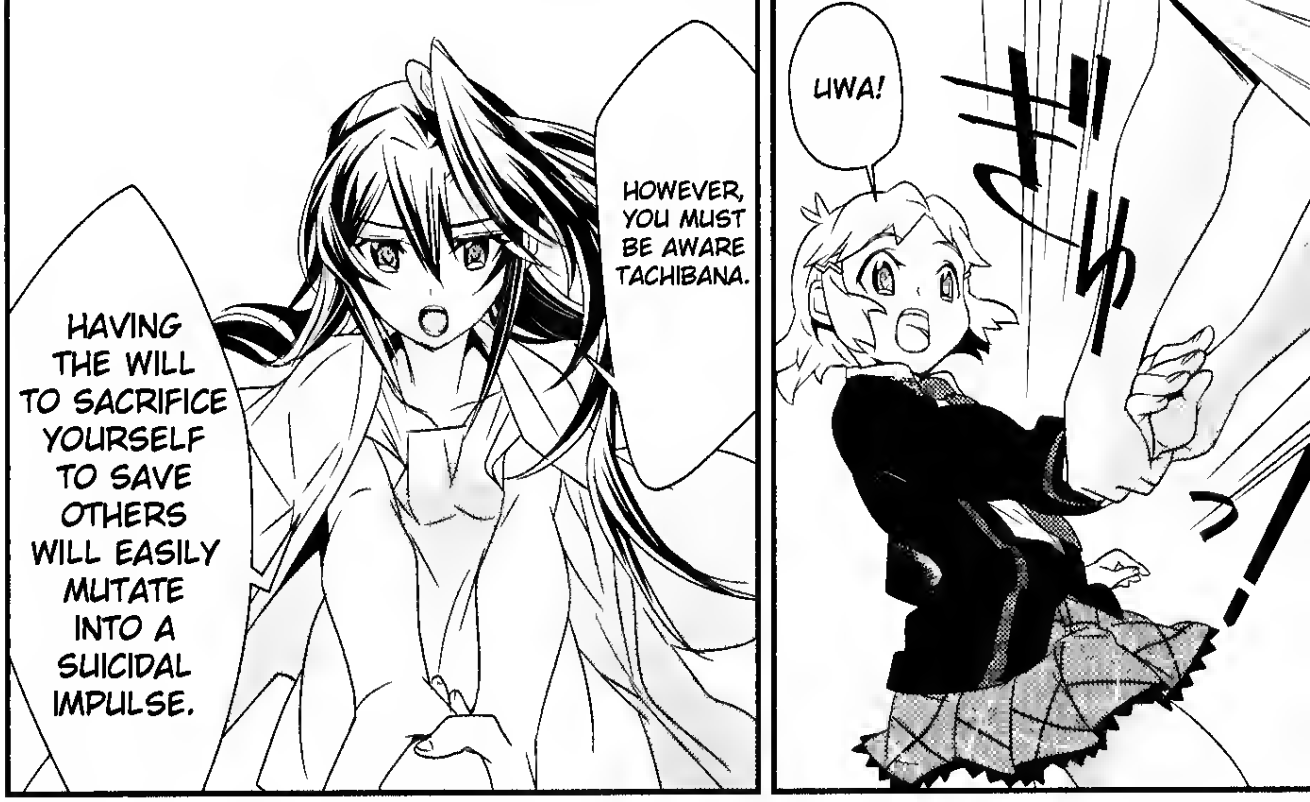
IS THAT BECAUSE OF TWO YEARS AGO?

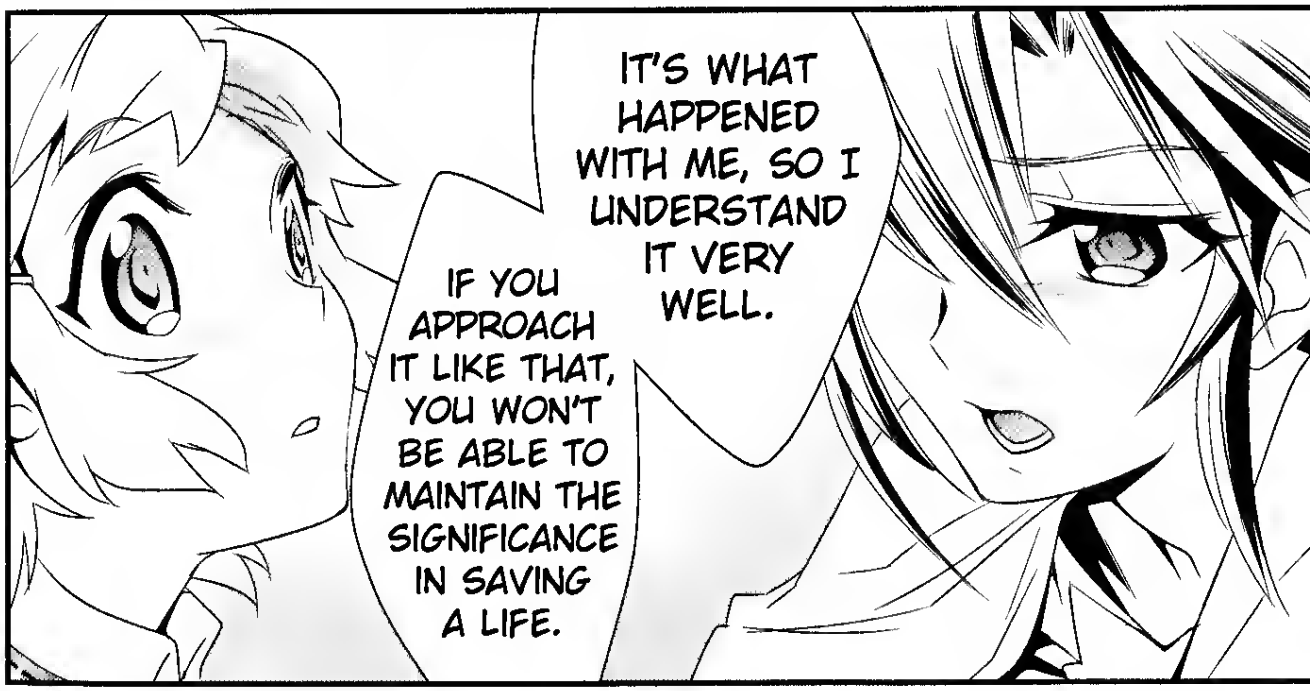

PLUS, SAVING PEOPLE IS KIND OF LIKE A HOBBY OF MINE, AND SO-

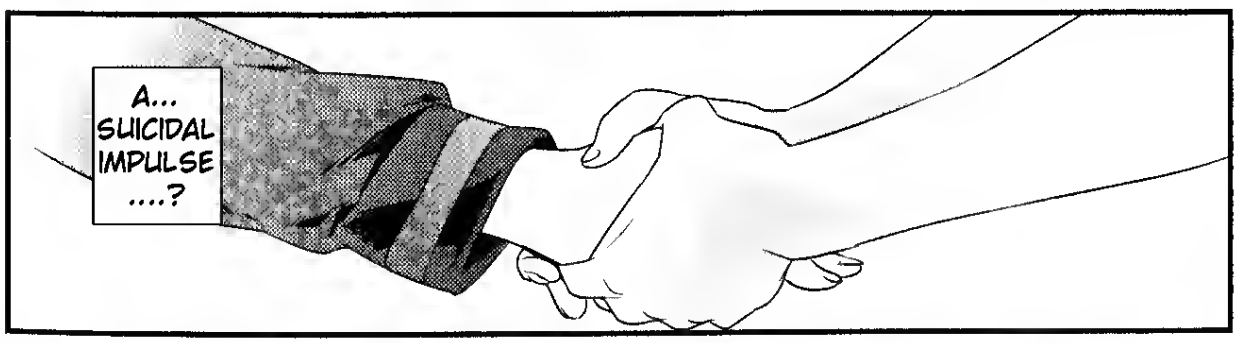
KANADE-SAN WASN'T THE ONLY ONE.
ON THAT DAY, MANY PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES.
BUT I SURVIVED, AND TODAY PASSES ME BY LIKE ANY OTHER DAY.
AND SO, AT MOST I CAN...
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT THAT WAY, YES.
BUT
YOU WOULD EVEN BE WILLING TO LIVE IN THEIR STEAD?

AT THIS MOMENT, THROUGH MY OWN WILL, I WANT TO SAVE SOMEONE.
BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I'M PAYING BACK A DEBT WHEN I PROTECT SOMETHING.

IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE A REASON TO FIGHT WHILE YOU WERE STANDING OUT THERE ON THE BATTLEFIELD, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT YOU.
BUT, IF YOU TELL ME YOU CAN PUSH FORWARD AND FOCUS ON THE FUTURE WITHOUT LOOKING BACK ON THE PAST ...
THEN WE CAN FIGHT TOGETHER AS EQUALS, JUST AS YOU HAD HOPED FOR.
TSUBASA -SAN...
SO, WHAT SHE SAID TURNED OUT TO BE TRUE.
THERE REALLY WAS SOMETHING WE SURVIVORS WERE SUPPOSED TO INHERIT.
?


HAVING THE WILL TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF TO SAVE OTHERS WILL EASILY MUTATE INTO A SUICIDAL IMPULSE.
HOWEVER, YOU MUST BE AWARE TACHIBANA.
UWA!

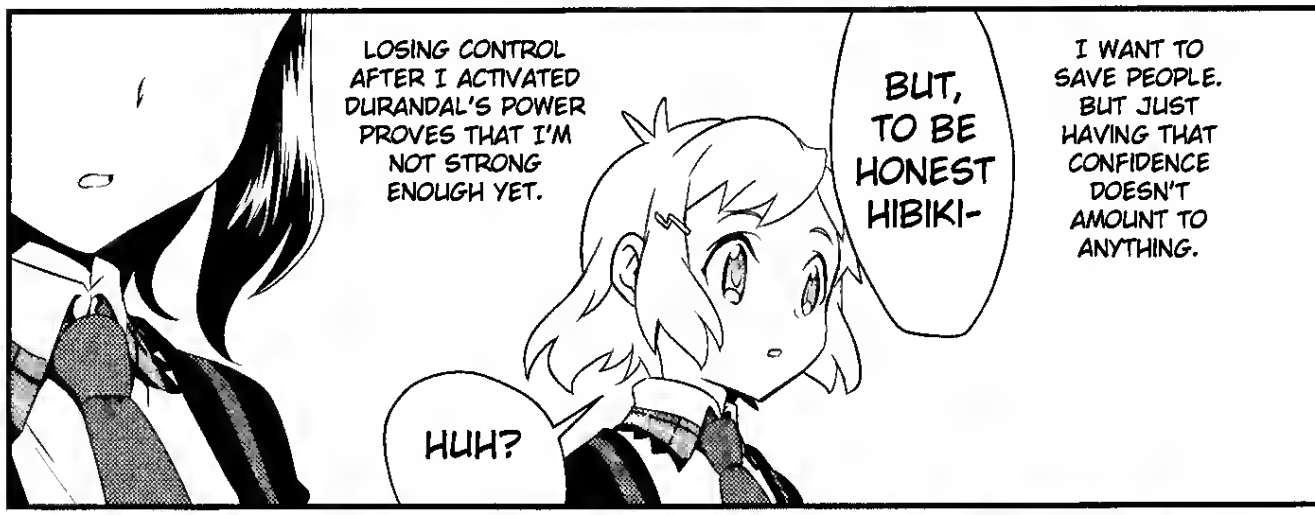

IT'S WHAT HAPPENED WITH ME, SO I UNDERSTAND IT VERY WELL.
IF YOU APPROACH IT LIKE THAT, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE SIGNIFICANCE IN SAVING A LIFE.


A... SUICIDAL IMPULSE ....?

FU
WA
AA
AA
AA
AA
....
YOU'RE ALWAYS TIRED LIKE THAT LATELY, AREN'T YOU?
I'M SORRY, A LOT OF THINGS HAVE BEEN COMING UP...
AH!
.....
YESTERDAY WASN'T ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, OKAY MIKU!?
HMMM, IT'S JUST ...
IS IT REALLY SO ODD THAT I HAVE STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT WANTING TO HELP PEOPLE?

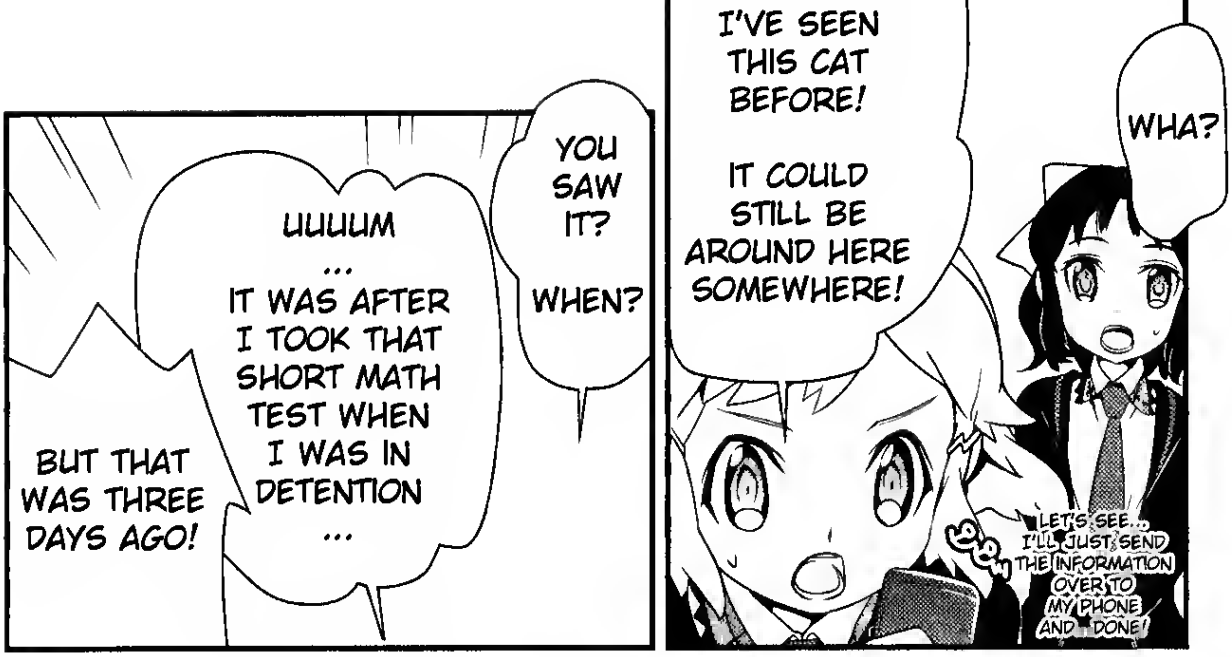
THESE FEELINGS I HAVE ARE NOT A LIE.

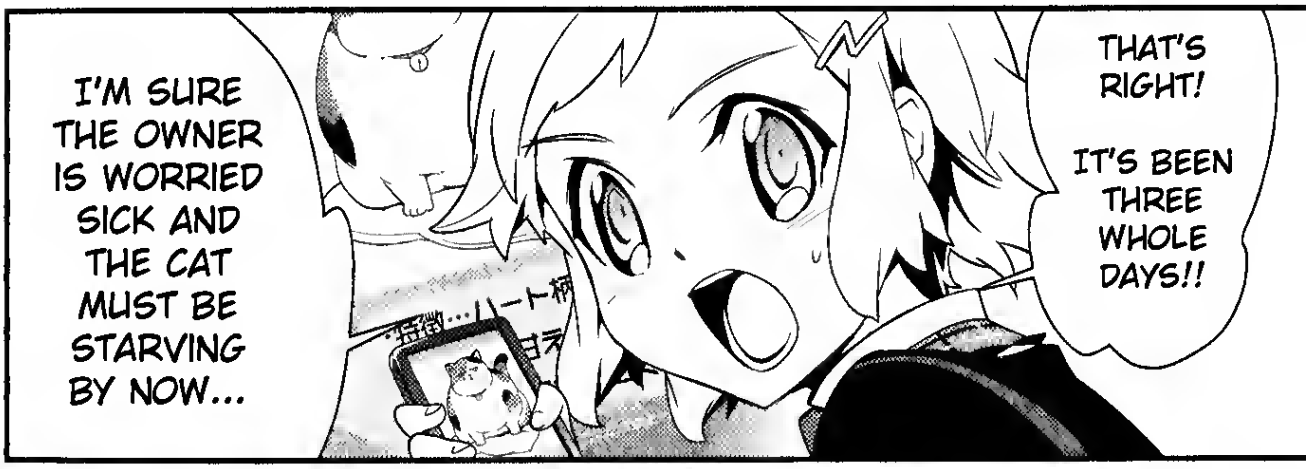
WITHOUT A DOUBT YOU DO TAKE IT A LITTLE TOO FAR, HIBIKI.
HM, WELL ...
AWW ...


LOSING CONTROL AFTER I ACTIVATED DURANDAL'S POWER PROVES THAT I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH YET.
BUT, TO BE HONEST HIBIKI-
I WANT TO SAVE PEOPLE. BUT JUST HAVING THAT CONFIDENCE DOESN'T AMOUNT TO ANYTHING.
HUH?

REALLY I JUST WANT YOU TO STAY HOW YOU ARE FOREVER, AND IF I CAN-
I THINK EVEN IF YOU'RE LIKE THAT, IT'S OKAY.

HIBIKI !?
Searching for a Lost Cat
Maru-chan Age: 4
IT SAYS THERE'S A CAT THAT WENT MISSING!
GEEZ, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
MIKU, LOOK AT THIS!!


I'VE SEEN THIS CAT BEFORE!
IT COULD STILL BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!
WHA?
LET'S SEE... I'LL JUST SEND THE INFORMATION OVER TO MY PHONE AND DONE!
YOU SAW IT?
WHEN?
UUUUM ... IT WAS AFTER I TOOK THAT SHORT MATH TEST WHEN I WAS IN DETENTION ...
BUT THAT WAS THREE DAYS AGO!


THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S BEEN THREE WHOLE DAYS!!
I'M SURE THE OWNER IS WORRIED SICK AND THE CAT MUST BE STARVING BY NOW...

OKAY, MIKU!
I'M GOING OFF TO DO SOME LOOKING AROUND FOR IT, SO YOU GO AHEAD AND-
HOLD ON!
I'M GOING WITH YOU.

OOPS, I JUST LIED TO OUR TEACHER.
MIKU?
THIS IS KOHINATA SPEAKING ....
YES, I'VE COME DOWN WITH A BIT OF A FEVER .... AND MY ROOMMATE TACHIBANA AS WELL .... THAT'S RIGHT
OKAY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
COME ON! LET'S GO SEARCH FOR THAT MISSING KITTY!
YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT MIKU!
BUT IF I HADN'T, EVERYONE WOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT US DON'T YOU THINK?
... YEAH ...

YEAH!!
NYAA

WOW, WE SOMEHOW ENDED UP COMING PRETTY FAR FROM HOME...
YEAH ...
HIBIKI!
LOOK, ISN'T THAT THE ONE?!
WE FOUND IT!!
MEOOW

EH?
FUFUFU. FOR A CAT THAT IS AN ADMIRABLE FEAT, KOHINATA-KUN.
FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU CAN JUST LEAVE IT UP TO THIS TREE CLIMBING EXPERT!
WHAT IS IT DOING ALL THE WAY UP THERE...

HEAVE!
HO!

ALMOST THERE ...
PLEASE HIBIKI, DON'T BE SO RASH.
THERE WE GO.
NOW COME OVER HERE KITTY-CAT~
!!
HNNYAA!
BWAAH!!

HIBIKI!!

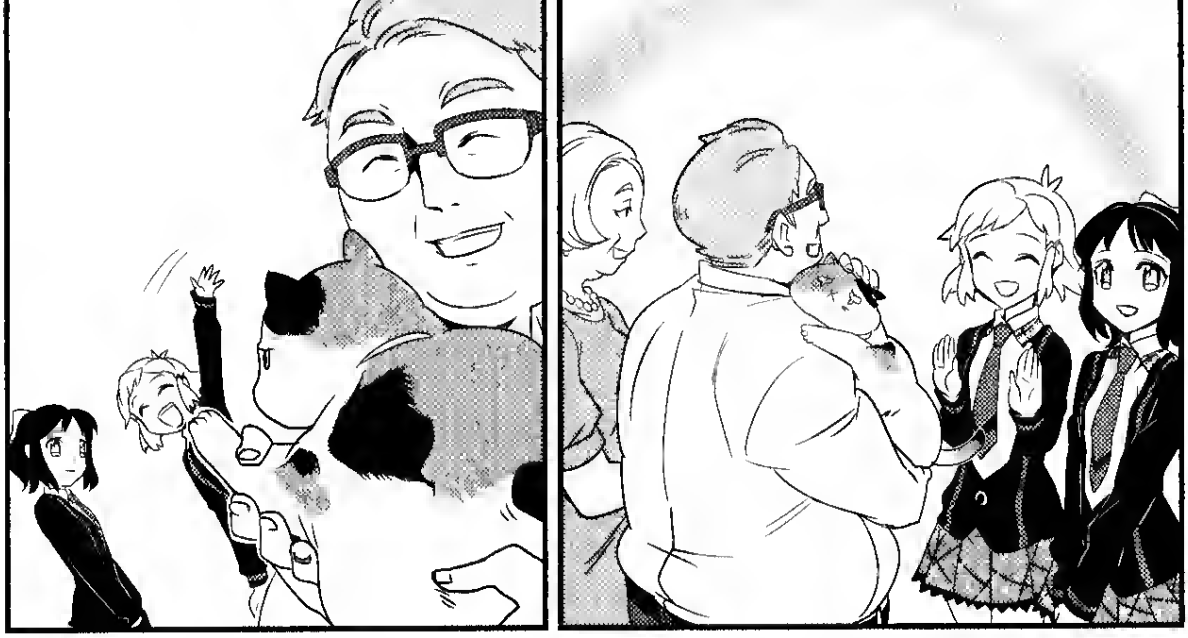
I FELL!

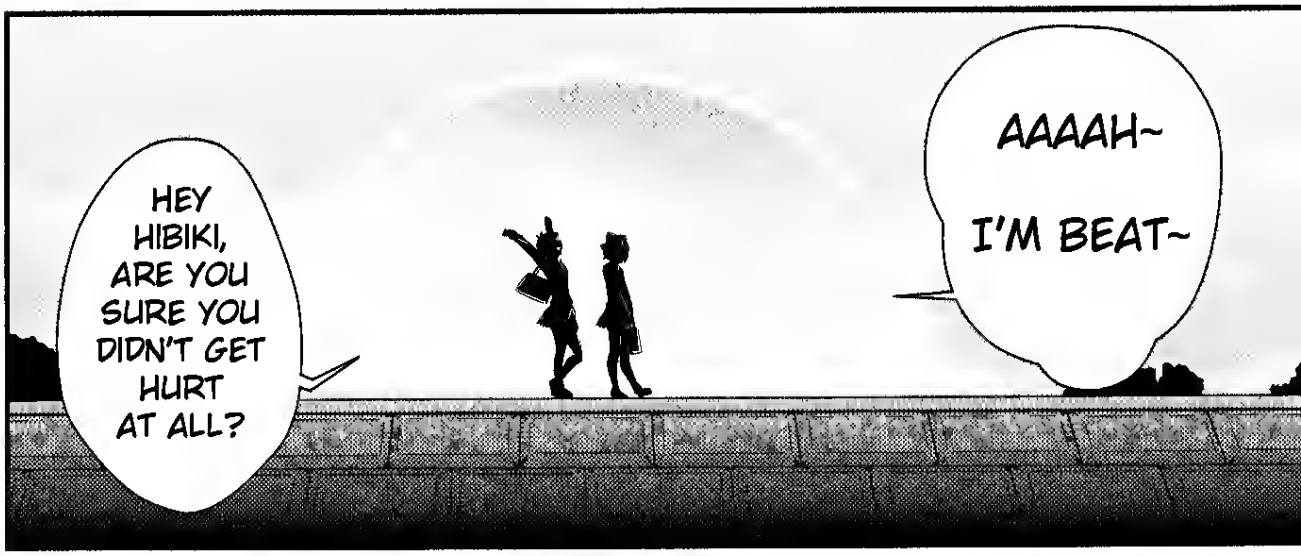
!?

KYAAA!!
OUCH
OUCH
OUCH
...

ARE YOU OKAY MIKU!?
SORRY!
SIGH... THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS BECAUSE YOU DON'T THINK AHEAD!

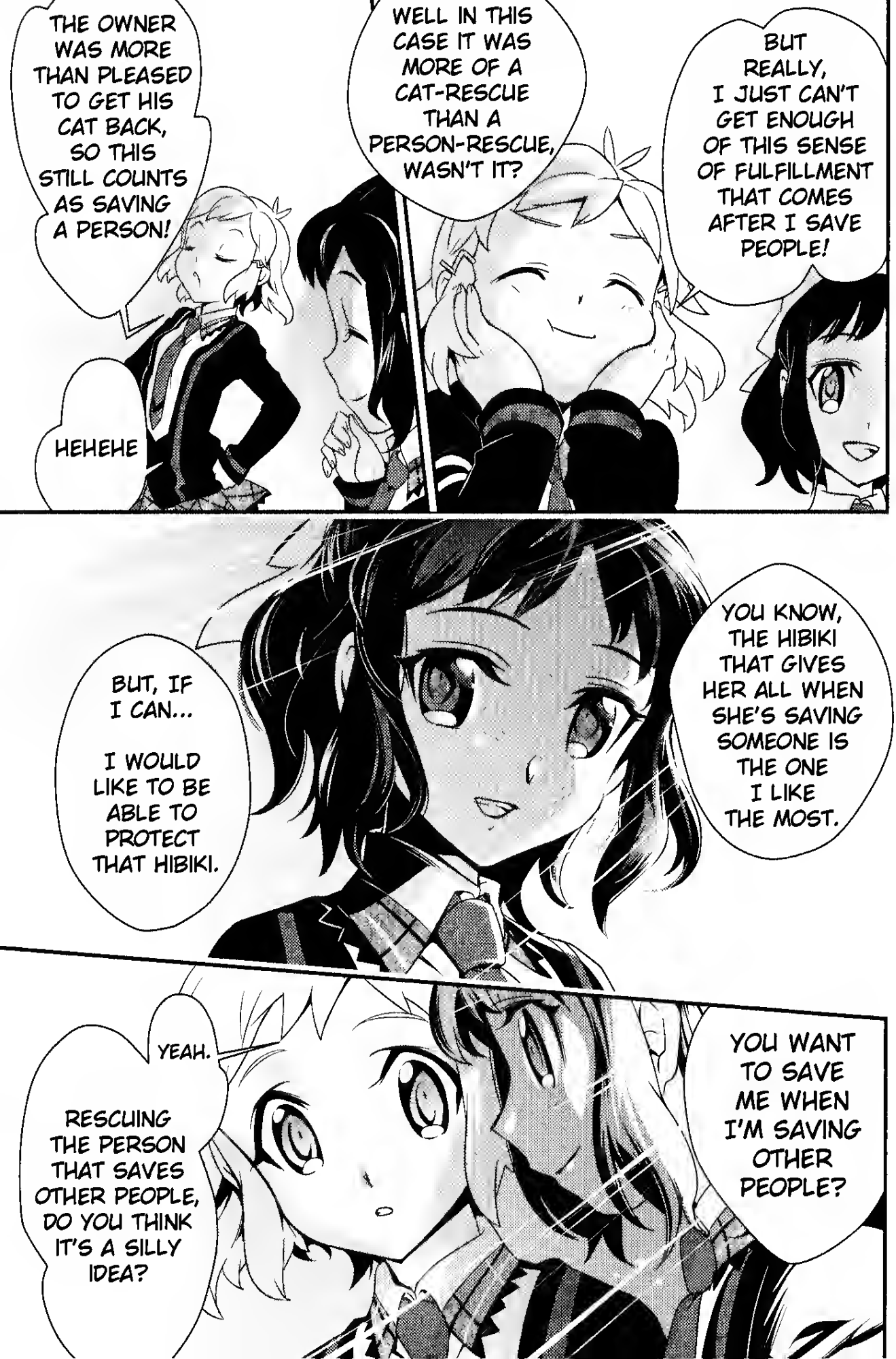
....
I REALLY AM SORRY ABOUT THAT.

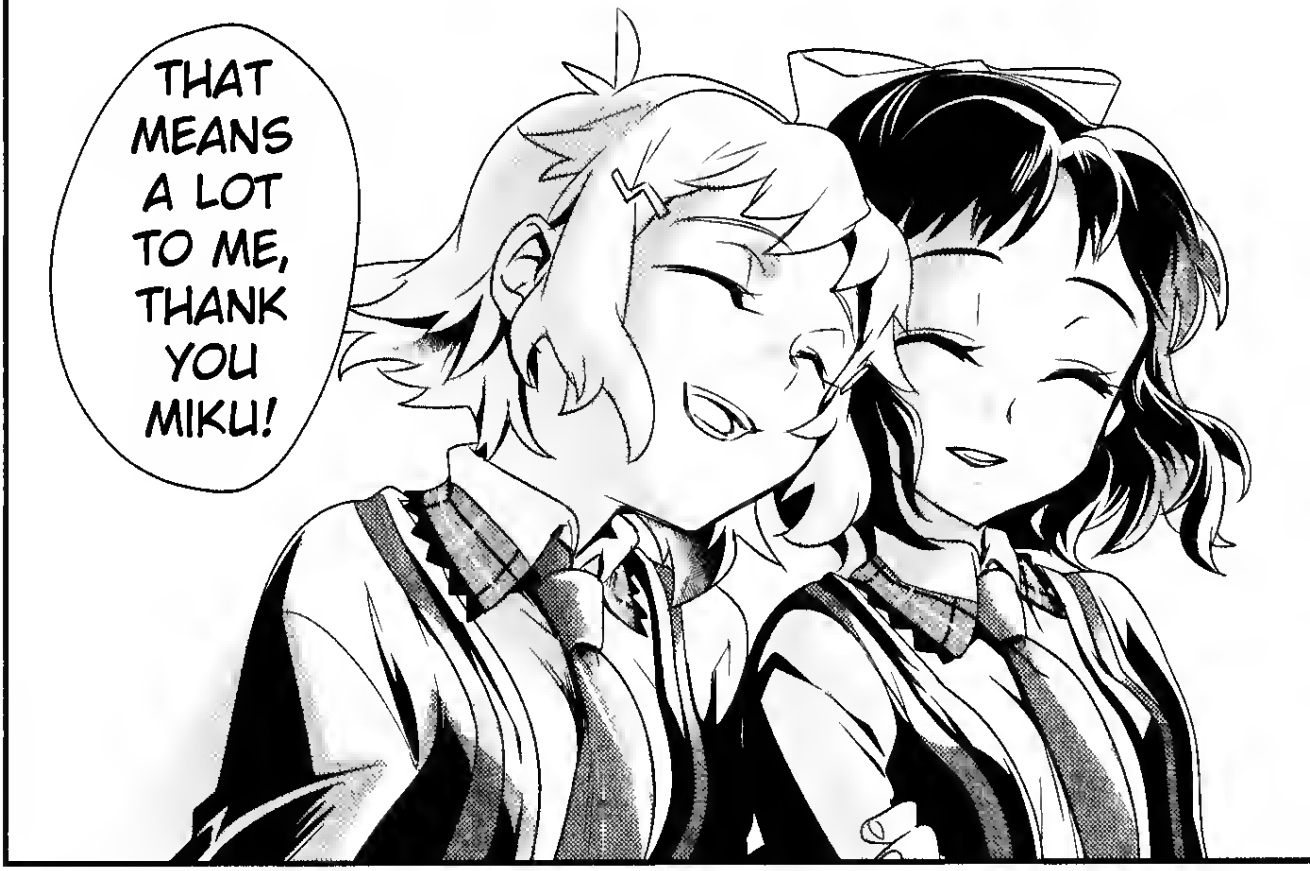



AAAAH~
I'M BEAT~
HEY HIBIKI, ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T GET HURT AT ALL?

... THEN I GUESS EVERYTHING TURNED OUT FINE ...

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO BROKE MY FALL FOR ME MIKU, SO I'M A-OKAY!


THE OWNER WAS MORE THAN PLEASED TO GET HIS CAT BACK, SO THIS STILL COUNTS AS SAVING A PERSON!
WELL IN THIS CASE IT WAS MORE OF A CAT-RESCUE THAN A PERSON-RESCUE, WASN'T IT?
BUT REALLY, I JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THIS SENSE OF FULFILLMENT THAT COMES AFTER I SAVE PEOPLE!
HEHEHE
YOU KNOW, THE HIBIKI THAT GIVES HER ALL WHEN SHE'S SAVING SOMEONE IS THE ONE I LIKE THE MOST.
BUT, IF I CAN...
I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT THAT HIBIKI.
YOU WANT TO SAVE ME WHEN I'M SAVING OTHER PEOPLE?
YEAH.
RESCUING THE PERSON THAT SAVES OTHER PEOPLE, DO YOU THINK IT'S A SILLY IDEA?


THAT MEANS A LOT TO ME, THANK YOU MIKU!

IT'S GOTTEN ALL DARK OUT HERE, GUESS IT'S NIGHTTIME HUH.

HEHE, INSTEAD WE ENDED UP CREATING A SECRET ONLY THE TWO OF US SHARE.
AND TO THINK, WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE IN CLASS ALL DAY LIKE USUAL.
THE CROQUETS OVER THERE LOOK GOOD! ♥
AHH!! WHAT SHOULD WE DO FOR DINNER TONIGHT~?
!!
FOOD~♪
FOOD~♪
....

MIKU, OVER HERE!